

**Advantage**  
**Behavioral Health Systems**  
**MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND ADDICTIVE**  
**DISEASES SERVICE BOARD MEETING #124**  
**February 28, 2006**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Jo Matthews – Madison  
Pat Ellis - Jackson  
Carter Smisson – Jackson  
Ralph Danson - Greene  
Conoly Hester – Athens-Clarke

Linda Vinson – Walton  
Mary Gannon Gunn – Athens-Clarke  
John Davis – Athens-Clarke  
Emma Evans – Barrow

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Greene – Vacant  
Athens-Clarke – Vacant  
Mae Davis – Elbert  
Gail Goldsmith– Morgan  
Donald Hector – Walton

R. Charles White – Walton  
Oconee – Vacant  
Oglethorpe - Vacant  
Shirley Segars – Barrow

**ADVANTAGE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS STAFF PRESENT**

Brenda Smith  
Helen Kabat  
Larry Gabriel  
Terry Frazier  
Charlotte Ekard

Terry Tellefson  
Cindy Darden  
Scott Clark  
Robin Johnson, Medical Director

**GUESTS**

Maria Granda  
Pamela Orpinas

**The meeting was opened by Linda Vinson, Community Service Board (CSB) Chairperson at 4:07 p.m.**

**1.0 ACTIONS**

- 1.1 Motion to accept the agenda. Moved (Conoly Hester); Seconded (Carter Smisson); Passed (Unanimously).
- 1.2 Motion to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2006 CSB Meeting. Moved (Conoly Hester); Seconded (John H. Davis); Passed (Unanimously).
- 1.3 Motion to make a resolution for thanking Mayor Heidi Davidson for support and intervention with Senator Chambliss regarding HUD funding. Moved (Conoly Hester); Seconded (John H. Davis); Passed (Unanimously).
- 1.4 Motion to approve the revised ABHS policies (see Board Reports 4.4). Moved (Carter Smisson); Seconded (Conoly Hester); Passed (Unanimously).

- 1.5 Motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved (John H. Davis); Passed (Unanimously).

## **2.0 OLD BUSINESS**

- 2.1 Robin Johnson, Medical Director reported on the Crisis Stabilization Program (CSP) and distributed "The Vantage Point Crisis Stabilization Program Handbook". The facility opened on December 1, 2005. The CSP provides a community-based alternative to inpatient hospitalization and operates 24-hours a day, seven (7) days per week. Over 50% of admissions are referred from Emergency Rooms. The minimum length of stay is five (5) days and a maximum of ten (10) days which is mandated by the State. Dr. Johnson noted that she is exploring the possibility of having medical and nursing students at the CSP in the future.
- 2.2 Mr. Tellefson reported on the Homeless Day Center. ABHS was not awarded the funds to operate the program, but is willing to as long as funds are available. Mr. Tellefson and staff met with Athens-Clarke County officials regarding this issue; Mayor Davidson was very concerned. She contacted Senator Chambliss and HUD has confirmed that ABHS will receive the funding to operate the program. Mr. Tellefson strongly recommended the Board to send correspondence to Mayor Davidson in appreciation and support of this program. Mr. Tellefson will follow up.

## **3.0 SERVICE REPORTS (Administrative Reports)**

- 3.1 Cindy Darden, Clinical Director reported that a program manager has been hired for Women Services. She will begin employment March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 3.2 Terry Frazier, Human Resources (HR) reported on the Employee Suggestion Program. The program is designed to encourage employees to contribute ideas to help better the organization and to find ways to decrease spending and/or saving money. All suggestions are to be submitted to the HR Department or placed in the suggestion box located in the Administrative lobby at North Avenue. A monetary award will be given to employee(s) for ideas that are implemented. Ralph Danson, Greene County CSB Representative requested that the Board be updated periodically on this program.

## **4.0 BOARD REPORTS**

- 4.1 Finance Committee – Larry Gabriel, Business Manager reported on revenues and expenditures for the period ending January 31, 2006. The committee met today and discussed the external auditors' recommendations, and contracts. Rachel Lee, Residential Services met with the committee to address issues regarding Personal Care Homes.
- 4.2 Membership & Nominations Committee – Dr. Davis, Committee Chairman reported that he is actively seeking to fill the four (4) vacant slots on the Board. He introduced two (2) potential candidates for Athens-Clarke County: Maria Granda, Granda Counseling; and Pamela Orpinas, Department of Health Promotions, University of Georgia.

- 4.3 Legislative Committee – Pat Ellis, Jackson County CSB Representative reported on the Developmental Disability Day (February 23<sup>rd</sup>) and Mental Health Day (February 6<sup>th</sup>) at the Capitol. The luncheon with the legislators at the Mental Health Day was very successful. The Peer Support Program clients plan to send their life/success stories to our local legislators. There was good representation at both events.
- 4.4 Bylaws and Policy Committee – Mary Jo Matthews, Committee Chairperson reported that the committee met today. They reviewed four (4) policies: 100.127 – Code of Ethics; 100.135 – Business Ethics; 200.120 – Protection and Promotion of Rights of Persons Served; and 900.170 Incident Reporting. The policies were revised due to the Commission of Accreditation for Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF) recommendations. The committee recommended the board’s approval.
- 4.5 Rights of Persons Served Committee – Ms. Ellis noted that the committee met today. They reviewed forty-three (43) incident reports to include twenty-seven (27) serious, thirteen (13) critical and three (3) minor. There were four (4) issue resolutions and three (3) corporate compliances in which all was resolved.
- 4.6 Ad Hoc Awards Committee – no report requiring an action.
- 4.7 Ad Hoc Annual Meeting Committee – Mary Gannon Gunn, Committee Chair Person noted that she has communicated with the Mental Health Association. They want to partner with the CSB and organize an event for the public possibly in late spring.
- 4.8 Ad Hoc Public Relations Committee – Ms. Ellis, Committee Chair Person, reported that the committee met February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cynthia Darby, the Slogan Contest winner was in attendance and received a framed certificate and monetary award. The slogan is ‘Building a stronger community one person at a time’. The committee is exploring the possibility of having the slogan engraved on pens, pencils, cups, etc.

Ms. Gunn recommended approaching the local television station (Channel 23) to highlight on the CSP.

## **5.0 REPORTS FROM THE CSB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- 5.1 Mr. Tellefson reported on the Poverty Committee. The committee is made up of thirty-seven (37) members and its purpose is for a prosperous Athens. Athens rates the 5<sup>th</sup> poorest county in the nation. Between 65 and 75% of the individuals in poverty is maintaining employment. These committee meetings will be ongoing and will include community involvement.
- 5.2 Mr. Tellefson reported on the meeting with B.J. Walker, Commissioner, Department of Human Resources. The focus point was funding issues. Commissioner Walker has recommended developing a committee to review the fee for service schedule for child and adolescent services which would be equitable statewide. Mr. Tellefson noted that he has been appointed to serve on the CSB Association Legislative & Policy

Committee. The committee met on February 17<sup>th</sup> to review a response to Commissioner Walker's letter regarding the results of the statewide audit in 2004 and 2005 "of our mental health system inadequacies in accountability, oversight, management and quality of care with both the State and the Community Service Boards".

**6.0 REPORTS FROM THE CSB CHAIRPERSON**

**6.1** Ms. Vinson announced dates for the Nonprofit Workshop/Seminars, March 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. This training is held at the Tate Center on the UGA campus. Mr. Gabriel noted that the CSB Association will be conducting a similar training for Board members. Dr. Davis is involved in this training project.

**6.2** Ms. Vinson reported that the CSB Work Day is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 – 2:00 pm, Athens, Georgia. The agenda will consist of contracts, balance score card, employee satisfaction survey, and employee bonuses. Ms. Vinson encouraged Board members to attend.

**7.0 PUBLIC ACCESS**

**7.1** No one present to address the Board.

**8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

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DATE

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APPROVED BY: RALPH DANSON  
SECRETARY

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SUBMITTED BY: BRENDA SMITH

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APPROVED BY: LINDA VINSON  
CHAIR PERSON